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ORIGIN EA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-01 /004 R

66614

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APPROVED BY: EA/J-MR SHERMAN

EUR/RPE-MR CLARK

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R 222019Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092092

FOLLOWING REPEAT OECD PARIS 10012 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 19 APR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 10012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OECD, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PROPOSAL FOR OECD RESEARCH PROJECT
ON ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES

REF: A) USOECD 7270; B) USOECD 23965; 23970 (OCT. 74);
C) STATE 80230

1. SUMMARY: AT GOJ REQUEST, SECRETARIAT IS NOW WORKING
ON DOCUMENT ELABORATING PROPOSED LONG-TERM RESEARCH
PROJECT, AND SECGEN PLANS TO BRING PROPOSAL FORMALLY TO
ATTENTION OF OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES AT APRIL 29 COUNCIL
MEETING. NO DEFINITE DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ON POSS-
IBLE MEETING TO DISCUSS PROJECT. IN OUR VIEW, MOST
INTERESTING ASPECT OF PROJECT IS ITS EMPHASIS ON PRO-
DUCING REALISTIC LONGER-RANGE POLICY OPTIONS INVOLVING
HIGH-LEVEL POLICY MAKERS IN THE PROCESS THROUGH PERIOD-
IC DISCUSSIONS. IN ORDER TO SEE THAT IT IS LAUNCHED
IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ENSURE INTEREST OF HIGH-LEVEL
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GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT

FOR SECRETARY TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO JAPANESE PROPOSAL IN HIS STATEMENT AT OECD MINISTERIAL. END SUMMARY.

2. JAPANESE AMB HIRAHARA HAS FORMALLY NOTIFIED SECRETARY GENERAL OF GOJ'S INTEREST IN LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROJECT AND WILLINGNESS TO COMMIT SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS (ONE MILLION DOLLARS OVER 3-YEAR PERIOD) TOWARD ITS IMPLEMENTATION. HIRAHARA REQUESTED THAT SECRETARIAT PREPARE DOCUMENTS ELABORATING PROJECT, BRING IT INFORMALLY TO ATTENTION OF OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, AND CALL MEETING, IF APPROPRIATE, TO CONSIDER BEST MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION. IN HIS PRESENTATION TO SECGEN, HIRAHARA NOTED EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER YOSHINO HAD RECEIVED FROM SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

3. SECGEN NOW PLANS TO RAISE JAPANESE PROPOSAL AT COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 2 AND TO CIRCULATE IN ADVANCE INFORMATION NOTE PROPOSING SCOPE AND MODALITIES OF PROJECT AND INVITING ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS TO PARTICIPATE ON BASIS OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. SECRETARIAT NOTE WILL INDICATE CLEARLY THAT PROJECT WAS PROPOSED BY JAPANESE. IT WILL DRAW HEAVILY ON PAPER WHICH YOSHINO GAVE TO PLANNING DIRECTOR LORD BUT SET OUT MORE CLEARLY THE CLOSE LINKAGE BETWEEN RESEARCH PROGRAM AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS. SECRETARIAT AND JAPANESE HOPE TO STRUCTURE PROJECT IN SUCH A WAY THAT SENIOR GOVERNMENT POLICY-MAKERS WILL COME TOGETHER IN INFORMAL MEETINGS TO DISCUSS POLICY OPTIONS PRESENTED. WE WILL TRANSMIT NOTE TO DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

4. SECRETARIAT IS CONSIDERING DESIRABILITY OF HOLDING MEETING OF EXPERTS AT SECGEN'S INVITATION TO EXAMINE FEASIBILITY OF PROPOSED PROJECT AND TO DISCUSS ITS SCOPE AND BEST MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION. ACCORDING TO CURRENT SECRETARIAT THINKING, EXPERTS MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN EARLY JUNE FOLLOWING MAY 28-29 OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING. ECONOMIST SABURO OKITA, LONG-TIME ADVISER TO TOP JAPANESE LEADERSHIP, IS EXPECTED TO BE THE JAPANESE CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTICIPANT IN POSSIBLE EXPERTS MEETING AND GENERALLY TO COORDINATE SUBSTANTIVE JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECT.

5. ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT, FRANCE, SWEDEN AND NETHERLANDS HAVE EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN PROJECT IN ADDITION TO JAPAN AND US. U K AND CANADA HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST; GERMANY HAS BEEN NEGATIVE.

6. WITH REGARD TO STUDY ON "FUTURE INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES" PROPOSED BY JAPANESE TO INDUSTRY COMMITTEE, SECRETARIAT HAS NOT YET BEGUN REWRITING ORIGINAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED BY JAPANESE. PROPOSAL WILL NEXT BE CONSIDERED BY EXPERTS GROUP ON JUNE 17 PRIOR TO JUNE 18-20 INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING. SECRETARIAT WILL REWRITE PROPOSAL BEFORE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE EXPERTS MEET BUT HAS NOT BEGUN TO CONSIDER WHAT SPECIFIC CHANGES MAY BE MADE.

7. ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECT AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL, JAPANESE HERE HAVE TOLD US THAT THE TWO PROPOSALS WERE ENTIRELY SEPARATE IN ORIGIN. INDUSTRY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL EMANATED FROM MITI AND WAS CONCEIVED AS A FAR MORE NARROW STUDY FOCUSED ON INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES. JAPANESE DELEGATE TO MARCH INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING (TANABE) TOLD US THAT MITI WAS UNAWARE OF LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROPOSAL WHEN IT LAUNCHED ITS OWN PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS DESIGNED IN PART AS AN ATTEMPT TO "REVITALIZE" INDUSTRY COMMITTEE. JAPANESE DELEGATION EXPECTS THAT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL WILL BE SOMEHOW MELDED INTO THE LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROJECT WHEN IT GETS OFF THE GROUND, BUT HOPES THAT WORK WILL CONTINUE IN THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE (PRESUMABLY UNDER MITI CONTROL).

8. MISSION COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW, THE MOST INTERESTING FACET OF LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROPOSAL -- AND THE ONE WHICH DISTINGUISHES IT FROM OTHER EXERCISES IN FUTUROLOGY -- IS ITS EMPHASIS ON PRODUCING REALISTIC LONGER-RANGE POLICY OPTIONS BY INVOLVING THE POLICY-MAKERS THEMSELVES IN THE PROCESS. IN THIS SENSE, PROJECT WILL ONLY SUCCEED IF IT RECEIVES ATTENTION AT HIGHEST LEVEL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE MAY SEEK SUPPORT FOR

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PROJECT IN HIS INTERVENTION AT OECD MINISTERIAL. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT PROJECT IS LAUNCHED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ATTRACT THE CONTEMPLATED LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT BY HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (AND, AT THE SAME TIME, TO GIVE CREDIT TO JAPANESE FOR AN IMAGINATIVE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE), BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL FOR SECRETARY TO MENTION THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL IN HIS STATEMENT AT THE MINISTERIAL AS A PROMISING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS FACING INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN THE LONGER RUN, PLEDGING FULL US SUPPORT AND URGING SUPPORT OF OTHER OECD COUNTRIES. TURNER UNQTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE092092
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/J:DFSMITH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750141-1038
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750427/aaaaazry.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USOECD 7270, 75 USOECD 23965, 75 23970, 75 (OC7
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE PROPOSAL FOR OECD RESEARCH PROJECT ON ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES
TAGS: EGEN, JA, OECD
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006